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ROCKY FLATS PLANT, P O BOX 464, GOLDEN, COLORADO 80402-0464 • (303) 966 7000

91-RF-2326



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ADMIN RECORD

PCBs DETECTED IN DITCH SEDIMENTS NORTHWEST OF THE SOLAR PONDS SUMMARY TO DATE AND RECOMMENDED COURSE OF ACTION

EG&G detected elevated concentrations of PCBs (Aroclor) in stream sediment samples collected during October, 1990 at two locations in a ditch northwest of the Solar Ponds (stations SED124 & SED120) Aroclor was detected at concentrations of 66,000 ppb at station SED124 and 330 ppb at station SED120 (See attached map) DOE was previously informed of these findings. These stations were established and sampled for the first time during this sampling period, thus no historical data exists for these locations prior to fourth quarter 1990. Upon receipt of the analyses, EG&G reextracted and re-analyzed the samples to check for laboratory error, the analytical results from the second analysis support the initial findings for SED124 (rerun analysis = 67,000 ppb), however, reanalysis for the SED120 sample resulted in a below detection value for PCBs

The extent of PCB contamination in the ditch sediments at this area is not known. The station with the highest PCB concentrations (SED124, 66,000 & 67,000 ppb) is located upstream of SED120 (330 ppb & below detection), suggesting that PCB concentrations decrease with distance downstream To evaluate the magnitude and extent of PCB levels in the sediments, EG&G proposes to initiate sediment sampling directly downstream and upstream of the two locations. More extensive sampling will depend on results of the initial plan (see attachment) Please note that a comprehensive PCB characterization program for the area will require significant increases in funding and personnel resources that do not exist within Environmental Restoration now In addition, we request that DOE set clear objectives and establish the priority for sampling, analysis, and cleanup of PCB occurrences Clear objectives and priorities will enable EG&G to determine the magnitude, extent, and cost of an investigation if other areas containing PCB contamination are detected

Please contact M B Arndt of my staff at extension 4294 if you have any questions

AUTHORIZED CLASSIFIER

CLASSIFICATION

UCN XMY/C. CONFIDENTIAL

TRAFFIC

Kersh, Associate General Manager

Environmental Restoration & Waste Management

PFF csk

Orig and 1 cc - R. M. Nelson, Jr.

DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION REVIEW WAIVER PER CLASSIFICATION OFFICE

Attachment As Stated

ORIG & TYPIST INITIALS

RF-46469 (Rev 3/91)

IN REPLY TO LTO

LTR /

PHASED SAMPLING PROGRAM TO INVESTIGATE THE MAGNITUDE AND EXTENT OF PCBs IN SEDIMENTS NORTH OF THE SOLAR PONDS

Phase 1

Three sediment samples will be collected upstream of SED124 to evaluate potential sources in the PSZ, one sample will be collected between SED124 and SED120 to evaluate whether PCBs occur between areas of known contamination, three samples will be collected downstream of SED120 including locations in North Walnut Creek upstream of Pond A-1 to evaluate the downstream extent of contamination. All samples will be analyzed for PCBs. An evaluation of the physical pathways upstream and downstream of the known contamination will also be initiated to direct sampling in Phase 2 if PCBs are detected during Phase 1 sampling.

Phase 2

If results from Phase 1 show PCB hits at the furthest upstream and furthest downstream locations, then an additional round of sampling will commence. The number and location of sample sites will depend upon the resolution of potential physical pathways both upstream and downstream of the known contamination, and upon the magnitude of the PCB concentrations in the Phase 1 sampling All samples in Phase 2 will be analyzed for PCBs

If results from Phase 1 do not show PCB hits at the furthest upstream and downstream locations, then sampling will be directed between the furthest upstream PCB occurrence and the furthest downstream PCB occurrence to identify the continuity and magnitude of PCB levels for future cleanup

